

**MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY  
NASA SATELLITE TRACKING STATION**

***ACTION***  
**Agenda Item I-6**  
**March 19, 2001**

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**Recommendation**

The staff recommends that the council approve Morehead State University's request to spend \$4,200,000 in federal funds to relocate the operations of the NASA-Goddard satellite tracking station to Morehead from Wallops Island, Virginia.

**Background**

The council has the statutory responsibility to review and approve postsecondary education capital construction projects costing \$400,000 or more, regardless of fund source. The Morehead State University Board of Regents has approved this project.

The satellite tracking station will be part of the university's astrophysics laboratory. The satellite will be used for NASA missions and will provide a replacement antenna for the MoSU radio telescope. The satellite may be contracted for up to 50 percent of the time to the NASA satellite-tracking program, with the remainder of the time devoted to the MoSU astrophysics program. The satellite will be relocated to MoSU property next to the central campus. As part of this project, MoSU will construct a 1,600 square foot facility adjacent to the satellite to house the special equipment that supports its operation.

New economic development, research, and education outreach programs will be created as a result of this initiative through the university's Institute for Regional Analysis and Public Policy (IRAPP). The council approved IRAPP as MoSU's program of distinction in 1998. The project will connect research and science to the region and provide telecommunication infrastructure to move eastern Kentucky into a more competitive position. Educational outreach services with public schools and other postsecondary education institutions also will result from this project.

The university has \$2 million of federal funds and will apply for an additional \$2.2 million in federal grants to complete the project. When completed, the project will require an additional \$86,580 in annual operating costs.

Following council action, the staff will forward the council's recommendation to the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet and to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.

Staff Preparation by Sherron Jackson